

OFFICE OF THE CITY MANAGER

RECEIVED

NO. LTC # 288-2013

LETTER TO COMMISSION

Mayor Matti Herrera Bower and Members of the City Commission CITY CLERK'S OFFICE

FROM:

Jimmy L. Morales, City Manager

DATE:

August 15, 2013

SUBJECT: Beachwalk II Project – Phase II (3<sup>rd</sup> Street to 5<sup>th</sup> Street)

The purpose of this Letter to Commission is to provide an update on the Beachwalk II Project - Phase II (3<sup>rd</sup> Street to 5<sup>th</sup> Street). On July 29, 2013, City staff together with the design consultant, Coastal Systems International, Inc. met with the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP), Bureau of Beaches and Coastal Systems for a pre-application consultation for the proposed Beachwalk II -Phase II project. The purpose of this meeting was to review a conceptual design plan and obtain feedback relative to the proposed location of the pathway. Attachment A is the initial conceptual design presented to FDEP and Attachment B are the meeting minutes from the pre-application consultation meeting.

FDEP regulations require the project be located as far landward as practicable on the landward side/slope of the dune and require minimization of impacts to the beach-dune system, including potential debris impacts and effects on marine turtles and their nesting habitat. During the pre-application meeting, FDEP stated that in order to avoid impacts to the greatest extent possible, the design team should:

- 1. Relocate the path landward of the crest;
- 2. Relocate the path to avoid cutting into the dune; and
- 3. Avoid mature vegetation when possible

In addition, FDEP requested that a narrative of the impact minimization efforts and any proposed mitigation be submitted as part of the Coastal Construction Control Line (CCCL) permit application package. The following activities have been identified to offset the project's impact:

- 1. Relocate mature, native plants within the existing dune system, potentially at the crest which is partially barren;
- 2. Add fill to the crest of the dune;
- 3. Increase the seaward edge of the vegetated dune by planting along the toe with pioneer species and relocating the post and rope; and
- 4. Trim and/or limb-up seagrapes and other mature vegetation when possible.

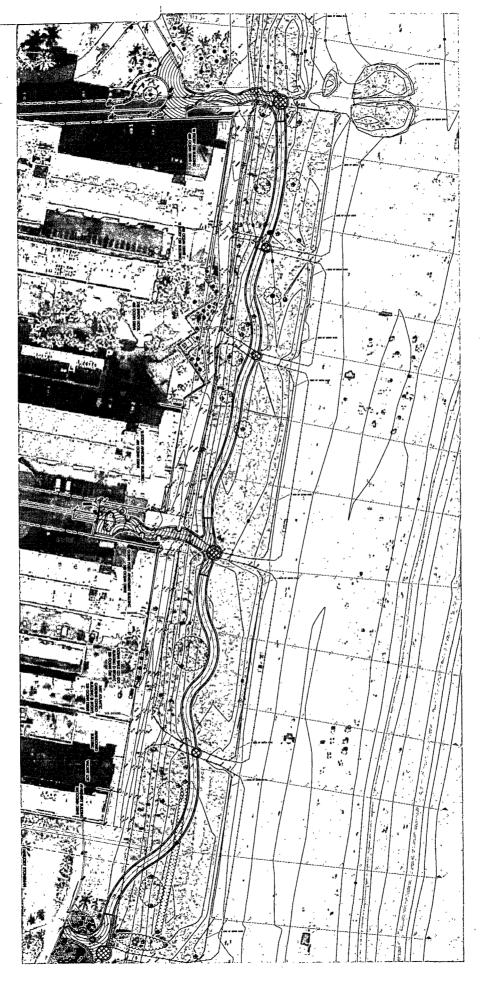
The City will be submitting the CCCL permit application in September. Permitting is estimated to take approximately 9 to 12 months. If the permit is approved, construction could begin in the fall of 2014.

If you have any questions, please feel free to call me.

Attachments:

A. Initial Conceptual Design Presented to FDEP

**B.** Meeting Minutes



#### Attachment B

ATTN: B. WHEaton



COASTAL SYSTEMS INTERNATIONAL, INC. 16. ACH
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Tel: 305-661-3655 • Fax: 305-661-1914

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FUBLIC HITTO SEPARTMENT

248600

August 5, 2013

## **MEETING MINUTES**

Re: DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONME

DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION – DIVISION OF WATER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT (DEP) COASTAL CONSTRUCTION CONTROL LINE (CCCL) PRE-APPLICATION CONSULTATION FOR THE PROPOSED BEACHWALK II – PHASE II (NORTH SEGMENT) PROJECT, CITY OF MIAMI BEACH (CITY), MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA – CNS-DA0192

Date:

July 29, 2013

Time:

1:30 PM

LOCATION:

Division of Water Resource Management

2600 Blair Stone Road, Tallahassee, FL

**PARTICIPANTS:** 

NAMECOMPANYMr. Tony McNealDEPMs. Celora JacksonDEPMs. Elizabeth (Betsy) WheatonCity

Ms. Elizabeth (Betsy) Wheaton Ms. Laura Shepherd

Coastal Systems International, Inc.

PURPOSE:

Review conceptual design plan and obtain DEP feedback relative to the proposed siting of the Beachwalk II Phase II project (Project), located in the City of Miami Beach between 3<sup>rd</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> Street, seaward of the Erosion Control Line (ECL).

### I. Discussions:

Laura Shepherd provided the DEP with a brief background review relative to the Project. Specifically, Ms. Shepherd noted that an application was previously submitted under DEP File DA-597 for the Project to be located within the hardpack, landward of the ECL. This application was later rescinded by the applicant as they were unable to secure the required easements from the property owners to place the path on their properties (landward of the dune) within the existing hardpack area.

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Ms. Shepherd then presented the DEP with a conceptual plan showing the proposed location of the path seaward of the ECL. Ms. Shepherd noted that the path, as shown, was sited in an area of relatively level grade, where vegetation is sparse.

Mr. McNeal asked for confirmation of building material for the proposed path. Ms. Shepherd stated, and Ms. Wheaton confirmed, that the path will be pavers on cement stabilized sand. This is the same construction material as the Beachwalk II Phase I project, which will connect to the Project.

Mr. McNeal reviewed the plan and asked if the DEP had approved a path within a vegetated dune in the past. Ms. Shepherd noted that the DEP had approved an on-grade path, similar to the one currently proposed, within the landward toe of the dune for the North Beach Recreational Corridor North path. This path siting was also made in order to move the path seaward of the upland property owners' eastern property boundary (the ECL).

Mr. McNeal noted that the path appears to be located on the crest of the existing dune. He asked that the path be located as far landward as possible.

Ms. Shepherd stated that more mature vegetation is located within the western portion of the dune (landward of the crest). This vegetation would be impacted by moving the path landward.

Ms. Shepherd noted that, in order to avoid impacts to the greatest extent possible, the design team would:

- 1. Relocate the path landward of the crest;
- 2. Relocate the path to avoid cutting (excavation) into the dune; and
- 3. Avoid mature vegetation when possible.

Ms. Shepherd also noted that the design team will work to offset impacts by:

- 1. Relocating mature, native plants within the existing dune system, potentially at the crest which is partially barren;
- 2. Add fill to the crest of the dune to fill the "dip";
- 3. Increase the seaward edge of the vegetated dune by planting along the toe with pioneer species and relocating (as necessary) the post and rope fence; and
- Trim and/or limb-up seagrapes (to DEP standards) and other mature vegetation when possible.

Ms. Shepherd agreed to prepare a narrative of the impact minimization efforts and any proposed mitigation, which will be submitted as part of the DEP permit application package.

#### II. Other Notes:

Ms. Shepherd noted that the design team will work to revise the plans as noted above. She stated that a site visit with Coastal Systems project engineer will be schedule to site the path to maximize impact avoidance.



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Ms. Shepherd also stated that the application will be submitted shortly (within the next 4-6 weeks).

# **AUTHOR:** Laura Shepherd

The minutes outlined herein reflect the author's interpretation of what was discussed and presented. If they differ in any way from your own interpretation, please respond in writing within 5 business days from the date these minutes were prepared, or they will be considered factual.

File, LMS, LW, CJB
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